(a) whether it is a fact that over one crore entitled families are deprived of BPL cards in the country; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government for food security of these families, and to provide them BPL cards immediately along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) For identification of BPL families as per poverty estimates of Planning Commission, guidelines are to be formulated by State/UT Governments as stipulated under the Public Distribution System (Control), Order 2001. To facilitate this, Ministries of Rural Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation issue guidelines.

Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) the responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL and AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments.

For allocations of foodgrains to States and UTs under TPDS, the Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of 6.52 crore BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000 or BPL ration cards issued, *whichever is less.* Foodgrains for these families are being allocated to the State Governments/UT Administrations @ 35 kg per family per month.

However, as reported by end of June 2009, the State and UT Governments have issued 10.86 crore BPL ration cards, which include 2.43 crore AAY cards.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, question (b) does not arise.

Distribution of fortified atta to Kerala

2311. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority of Kerala had submitted a proposal during the year 2007 for distribution of fortified *atta* through Supplyco. outlets;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon;

(c) whether action would be taken in affirmative on the above submission; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Government (Department of Food and Public Distribution) issued guidelines dated 17.1.2008 regarding distribution of wheat flour to ration card holders of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories through Fair Price Shops.

Government of Kerala had submitted such a request in October, 2007. Subsequently, another request was received from the State Government in 2008. In pursuance to the proposal, certain clarification has been sought from the State Government, especially regarding financial viability of fair price shops.

Amount due to sugarcane farmers

†2312. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount owed by sugar mills to farmers for sugarcane during the last three years, region-wise and State-wise;

(b) the time since, the payment of the owed amount is pending;

(c) whether farmers are giving up sugarcane farming because of hardships faced by them due to pending payment of their dues; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in order to expedite the payments of dues to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The sugar season-wise and State/Zone- wise details of outstanding cane price dues payable as on 30.4.2009, by sugar mills to the cane growers are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Supply of sugarcane by cane growers to sugar mills and their payment by the sugar mills is a continuous process. Since the cane price dues payable to the cane growers for a sugar season pertains to supply of sugarcane to different sugar mills at different points of time and the position is continually changing on account of payment towards fresh supplies by a very large number of farmers during the course of the season, it is not possible to pinpoint the dates from which such dues are pending to individual farmers.

(c) The Central Government has not received report from any of the sugarcane producing States that farmers are giving up sugarcane farming due to non-payment of their dues.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Sugar season-wise and State/Zone-wise position of cane price arrears as on 30.4.2009

(Amount in crore rupees)

State/Zone	For 2008-09 season	For 2007-08 season	For 2006-07 and earlier season(s)	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	7.22	Nil	Nil	7.22

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.